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# Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 29 December 2014

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/69/488/Add.3)*]

## 69/248. Situation of human rights in Myanmar

*The General Assembly*,

*Guided* by the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] the International Covenants on Human Rights[2] and other relevant human rights instruments, and recalling its previous resolutions on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, the most recent of which is resolution 68/242 of 27 December 2013, those of the Commission on Human Rights, and those of the Human Rights Council, the most recent of which is resolution 25/26 of 28 March 2014,[3]

*Welcoming* the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Myanmar[4] and the facilitation by the Government of Myanmar of the visits of his Special Adviser to the country from 25 August to 2 September, from 5 to 11 October, from 31 October to 6 November and from 29 November to 2 December 2013 and from 18 to 28 January, from 28 March to 10 April, from 26 to 28 June and from 26 July to 1 August 2014,

*Welcoming also* the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in Myanmar[5] and the access granted to her during her visit to Myanmar from 17 to 26 July 2014,

1. *Welcomes* the continued positive developments in Myanmar towards political and economic reform, democratization and national reconciliation and the promotion and protection of human rights, recognizes the scale of the reform effort undertaken to date, and encourages the Government of Myanmar to take further steps to consolidate the progress made and address outstanding concerns;

2. *Also welcomes* the continued engagement of the Government of Myanmar with political actors within the parliament and opposition parties, as well as with civil society, and urges the authorities to continue the process of constitutional review and reform in order to ensure, inter alia, that the elections to

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[3] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/69/53), chap. IV, sect. A.

[4] A/69/362.

[5] A/69/398.



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be held in 2015 are credible, inclusive and transparent, allowing all candidates to fairly contest the elections, and to ensure that Myanmar continues its democratic transition by bringing all national institutions, including the military, under a democratically elected, fully representative civilian government;

3. *Further welcomes* the ongoing efforts aimed at reviewing and reforming legislation, recalls the importance of ensuring its compatibility with international standards and democratic principles, welcomes some steps taken to strengthen good governance and the rule of law, and calls upon the Government of Myanmar to continue legal reform, including by repealing laws restricting fundamental freedoms, to consider ratifying additional international instruments, including international human rights conventions, and to take further steps to strengthen good governance and the rule of law, including through legislative, judicial and institutional reform;

4. *Welcomes* the release of prisoners of conscience, stressing the important role of the political prisoner review committee and encouraging its continuation, urges the Government of Myanmar to continue the unconditional release of all prisoners of conscience, including all political activists and human rights defenders recently detained or convicted, and to provide for the full rehabilitation of former prisoners of conscience, welcomes the announcement of a mandate for the Interim Press Council to mediate disputes between journalists and the authorities, and encourages the Government to fulfil its commitment to protect the right to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, to allow for free and independent media and to take appropriate steps to ensure the safety and security of journalists, civil society activists and human rights defenders and their freedom to pursue their activities;

5. *Urges* the Government of Myanmar to step up its efforts to end remaining human rights violations and abuses, including arbitrary arrest and detention, forced displacement, rape and other forms of sexual violence, torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, arbitrary deprivation of property, including land, and violations of international humanitarian law in some parts of the country, and repeats its call upon the Government to take necessary measures to ensure accountability and end impunity;

6. *Welcomes* the important steps taken towards a nationwide ceasefire with ethnic armed groups and towards an all-inclusive political dialogue with the objective of achieving lasting peace, and urges full implementation of existing ceasefire agreements, including for all parties to protect the civilian population against ongoing violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law and for safe, timely, full and unhindered humanitarian access to be granted to all areas;

7. *Urges* the Government of Myanmar to accelerate its efforts to address discrimination, human rights violations, violence, hate speech, displacement and economic deprivation affecting various ethnic and religious minorities, and attacks against Muslims and other religious minorities, and calls upon the Government to uphold the rule of law and to step up its efforts to promote tolerance and peaceful coexistence in all sectors of society by, inter alia, facilitating interfaith and intercommunity dialogue and understanding and supporting community leaders in this direction;

8. *Reiterates its serious concern* about the situation of the Rohingya minority in Rakhine State, including further instances of violence and other abuses in the past year, and, while noting some steps taken by the Government of Myanmar to address the situation, calls upon the Government to protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all inhabitants of Rakhine State regardless of legal status, to ensure full and immediate access to humanitarian assistance without

discrimination, to permit unhindered access for humanitarian agencies across Rakhine State, to take measures to ensure the safe and voluntary return of internally displaced persons to their communities of origin, to allow freedom of movement and equal access to full citizenship for the Rohingya minority, to allow self-identification, to ensure equal access to services, particularly health and education, the right to marry and birth registration, to address the root causes of violence and discrimination, and to undertake full, transparent and independent investigations into all reports of human rights violations and abuses to ensure accountability and to bring about reconciliation;

9. *Notes* the efforts made to address comprehensively the complex situation in Rakhine State, and urges the Government of Myanmar to ensure transparency and a consultative approach that ensures the full engagement of all stakeholders, including religious minorities, in these efforts with a view to protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms and providing access to full citizenship on an equal basis, and to promote peaceful coexistence and the long-term development of all communities in Rakhine State;

10. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Centre for Diversity and National Harmony in Myanmar, which is intended to promote harmony and peaceful coexistence among communities;

11. *Also welcomes* the continued steps taken by the Government of Myanmar to improve engagement and cooperation with the United Nations and other international actors, including regional organizations, encourages the full implementation of relevant agreements, and, recalling the commitment of the Government to open a country office of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, expresses concern about delays and calls upon the Government to establish, without further delay, the office in accordance with the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

12. *Encourages* the international community to continue to support the Government of Myanmar in the fulfilment of its international human rights and international humanitarian law obligations and commitments, the implementation of its democratic transitional process and its economic and social development;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(*a*) To continue to provide his good offices and to pursue his discussions on human rights, democracy and reconciliation in Myanmar, involving all relevant stakeholders, and to offer technical assistance to the Government of Myanmar in this regard;

(*b*) To give all assistance necessary to enable the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Myanmar and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in Myanmar to discharge their mandates fully, effectively and in a coordinated manner;

(*c*) To report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, as well as to the Human Rights Council, on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;

14. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter on the basis of the reports of the Secretary-General and the Special Rapporteur.

*77th plenary meeting*
*29 December 2014*